

REMARKS

Initially, Applicant thanks the Patent Office for indicating that claims 4-5 contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berger et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,165,592) (hereinafter "Berger"). Claim 3 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berger in view of Katagiri (U.S. Patent No. 6,074,739). Claims 1-3 have been canceled. Accordingly, the rejection of these claims are moot and should be withdrawn.

Allowed claims 4 and 5 are the only claims remaining in the present application. Applicant submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action are earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By



Monica S. Davis
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 44,492
ROTHWELL, FIGG, ERNST & MANBECK, p.c.
1425 K Street, N.W.
Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 783-6040

January 7, 2003